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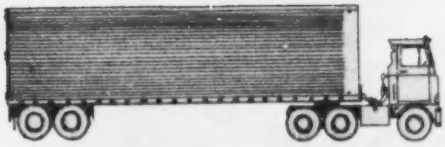

MONTHLY TRUCK TONNAGE REPORT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM STATISTICAL ANALYSIS DEPARTMENT
AMERICAN TRUCKING ASSOCIATIONS, INC. 2200 MILL ROAD ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 (703) 838-1791

TONNAGE INDEX DECREASES IN JANUARY

General freight carrier tonnage decreased 0.4 points in January 1985, from December, 1984 according to the ATA Truck Tonnage Index. At a level of 144.3(p) with 1967 = 100, the January tonnage is 1.6 percent below December's 144.7(r). The current month's volume is 0.1 points (0.1 percent) below the tonnage level in January, 1984.

The actual tons reported by motor carriers in the ATA survey increased from 4.98 million tons in December to 5.15 million tons in January, 1985. Actual tons increased 3.4%. Adjustments for variations due to seasonality and the number of working (trading) days decreased the January index level to 144.3%(p).

From December, 1984 to January, 1985, Industrial Production Index shows increased of 0.4% compared to the adjusted general freight tonnage index decreases of 0.3%.

In keeping with ATA's ongoing practice, the adjusted tonnage index has again been updated to reflect the most recent seasonal-trading day factors. This is done annually (in January) and index numbers for the most recent five years have been revised accordingly.

These findings were announced today by the American Trucking Associations, Inc. (ATA) Statistical Analysis Department. The monthly truck tonnage index is based on a survey of the companywide operations of Class I and II motor carriers of general freight. Index coverage represents in excess of one-half of the tonnage moved by this type of for-hire motor carriers of property subject to Interstate Commerce Commission regulation.

Month-to-month data are compiled using a chain link which, in turn, has been adjusted to remove the normal seasonal influence and variations due to differing numbers of business (trading) days each month.

The current and historic index numbers are shown on the reverse side, along with several other major business indicator series. A "three-month moving average" adjusted truck tonnage index has also been compiled which aids in smoothing out short term non-significant movements in the series.

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p - preliminary r - revised f - final

INDEXES AND COMPARISONS THROUGH JANUARY, 1985
1967 = 100

	Jan. 1985	Dec. 1984	Nov. 1984	Jan. 1984	Monthly % Change 12/84 / 11/84	Monthly % Change 1/85 / 12/84	Yearly % Change
Tonnage Index (adjusted)[1]	144.3p	144.7r	147.0f	144.4f	-1.6	-0.3	-0.1
Tonnage Index (unadjusted)	136.4p	131.8r	140.0f	133.3f	-5.9	+3.5	+2.3
Industrial Production Index[2] (total)	166.6	165.9	165.2	158.5	+0.4	+0.4	+5.1
Manufacturers (total)	168.4	168.0	166.7	159.5	+0.8	+0.2	+5.6
Non-durable	180.8	180.7	179.9	175.2	+0.4	--	+3.2
Durable	159.8	159.2	157.6	148.6	+1.0	+0.4	+7.5
Retail Store Sales Index[2] (adjusted)	453.4	450.1	454.3	436.7	-0.9	+0.7	+3.8
Producer Price Index[3] (unadjusted)	292.7	292.4	292.3	289.4	--	+0.1	+1.0
Consumer Price Index[4] (unadjusted)	316.1	315.5	315.3	305.2	+0.1	+0.2	+3.6
tonnage Reported by 154 Carriers in JANUARY 1985 (000 tons)	5,147	4,977	n.a.	5,289	n.a.	+3.4	-2.7

p - preliminary r - revised f - final n.a. - not applicable
1 - Adjusted seasonally & for trading days 2 - Seasonally adjusted
3 - Finished goods (formerly Wholesale Price Index) 4 - Goods and services

ADJUSTED MONTHLY TRUCK INDEX -- HISTORICAL -- 1967 = 100

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
January	164.7	153.2	129.7	127.5	144.4	144.3p
February	156.5	152.8	133.0	126.4	140.1	
March	157.9	152.8	130.5	128.9	143.8	
April	151.0	152.9	130.5	130.4	146.0	
May	142.9	153.2	131.1	133.3	143.8	
June	139.0	151.0	131.3	135.5	142.7	
July	134.9	150.2	128.3	150.1	143.9	
August	140.7	146.2	129.5	137.1	145.0	
September	145.0	143.8	128.4	138.4	141.8	
October	147.8	140.6	125.6	139.5	144.7	
November	151.8	136.3	122.4	140.0	147.0	
December	154.5	131.4	125.6	143.3	144.7r	

Note: All Data 1980 - 1984 Have Been Updated In This Table And In The Following "Moving Average"

* all data are final unless otherwise noted.

Three Month Moving Average of Adjusted Truck Tonnage Index for Recent Months

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1983	125.2	126.5	127.6	128.6	130.9	133.1	139.6	140.9	141.9	138.3	139.3	140.9
1984	142.6	142.6	142.8	143.3	144.5	144.2	143.5	143.9	143.6	143.8	144.5	145.5r
1985	145.3p											

The moving average aids in smoothing out less significant monthly variations.

Each year the historical monthly truck tonnage index is re-analyzed to determine the seasonal and trading day factors for the upcoming year. In this process, the prior years' factors also become modified as then does the historic tonnage index. Thus, in this monthly release, the historic data is the revised tonnage index for 1980 through 1984. For your information, the point change difference in these values is shown below. Example: for Jan. 1980, the revised tonnage index is a 164.7; the previously published figure was 164.6; the revision resulted in a 0.1 point rise in that month.

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Jan.	0.1	0.1	NC	0.4	-0.4
Feb.	-0.6	NC	NC	0.2	0.5
Mar.	0.4	-0.1	-0.7	1.1	1.5
Apr.	0.4	0.1	-0.8	0.2	-0.8
May	0.1	0.2	0.2	-0.7	-0.2
Jun.	-0.4	-0.1	0.3	-0.4	-0.3
Jul.	0.2	-0.5	-0.4	-0.8	-1.7
Aug.	-0.4	-0.7	-1.8	-1.8	-2.6
Sep.	-0.3	0.4	-0.1	-1.0	0.3
Oct.	-0.2	0.5	0.4	0.8	0.8
Nov.	0.7	-0.4	NC	0.7	NC
Dec.	0.3	0.7	0.7	0.9	NC

Below are the combined seasonal and trading day factors which will apply to the months of 1985. To translate the unadjusted tonnage data into its adjusted level, divide the unadjusted index by the seasonal and trading day factor.

Comlbined Seasonal and Trading Day
Adjustment Factor - 1985

Jan.	0.9446
Feb.	0.9516
Mar.	1.0472
Apr.	1.0120
May	1.0363
Jun.	1.0139
Jul.	0.9925
Aug.	1.0112
Sep.	1.0472
Oct.	1.0654
Nov.	0.9341
Dec.	0.9268